THE COMMISSION OF FINE ARTS

ESTABLISHED • BY • CONGRESS • MAY • 17, 1910

708 JACKSON PLACE, N.W.
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20006

202-566-1066

MEETING OF THE COMMISSION OF FINE ARTS

18 February 1987

AM 10:00 CONVENE, 708 Jackson Place, N. W., Washington, D. C.

I. ADMINISTRATION

A. Commission meeting with the Administrator of the General Services Administration, Terence Golden

B. Approval of 15 January 1987 minutes

C. Dates of next meetings:

12 March 1987 (Thursday)
16 April 1987 (Thursday)

D. Requirements for works of art in public and private buildings: Discussion and proposed resolution, Frederick E. Hart

II. SUBMISSIONS AND REVIEWS

A. Government of the District of Columbia, Board of Zoning Appeals

CFA 18/FEB/87-1, Peoples Republic of China, 2300-2310 Connecticut Avenue, N. W. Addition of new pool and auditorium to existing complex.

B. Government of the District of Columbia, Department of Public Works

CFA 18/FEB/87-2, Shepherd Park Library, 7400 Georgia Avenue, N. W. Concept design.

C. United States Postal Service, Facilities Department

CFA 18/FEB/87-3, Washington City Post Office, Massachusetts Avenue and North Capitol Street, N. E. Concept design for additions and alterations for adaptive reuse.

D. Department of the Army, Corps of Engineers

CFA 18/Feb/87-4, National Historic Center and Museum for the Corps of Engineers, Humphries Engineer Center, Ft. Belvoir, Va. Design for new building.

E. National Park Service, National Capital Region

1. CFA 18/Feb/87-5, Logan Circle, Vermont and Rhode Island Avenues, at 13th Street, N. W. Final renovation plan.

2. CFA 18/Feb/87-7, The White House. Material selection for repaving of perimeter sidewalks.

F. Pennsylvania Avenue Development Corporation

CFA 18/Feb/87-6, Presidential Building, 11th, 12th Streets, and Pennsylvania Avenue, N. W. Resubmission of concept design for proposed addition.

G. District of Columbia Department of Consumer and Regulatory Affairs

1. Shipstead-Luce Act

a. S.L. 87-60, 1700 Kalmia Road, N. W. Concept design for new 2-story detached single family house.

b. Appendix I.

2. Old Georgetown Act

a. Appendix II.

SHIPSTEAD-LUCE SUBMISSIONS

NO.	ADDRESS AND OWNER	PROJECT
S.L. 87-51	137 D. Street, S. E. James Gridsby	Exterior ramps

ACTION: No objection to issuance of permit for proposed ramps as shown in drawings received and dated 14 January 1987.

S.L. 87-52	405 4th Street, N. W. Peter N. G. Schwartz Companies	Raze building

ACTION: Void. Razing is not covered by Shipstead-Luce Act.

S.L. 87-53	1331 Connecticut Avenue, N. W. George Thanos	Two-story addition

ACTION: Void. Not in CFA jurisdiction. DuPont Circle Historic District is jurisdiction of Historic Preservation Office.

S.L. 87-54	2650 Virginia Avenue, N. W. Watergate Hotel	Louvers

ACTION: No objection to issuance of permit for proposed louvers as shown in drawings received and dated 29 January 1987.

S.L. 87-55	655 15th Street, N. W. Metropolitan Square	Awnings/signs

ACTION: No objection to issuance of permit for proposed awnings which shall match existing awnings on building.

NO.	ADDRESS AND OWNER	PROJECT
S.L. 87-57	625 Indiana Avenue, N. W. Farr Jewett & Associates, Inc.	New building

ACTION: No objection to issuance of permit for construction of proposed new office building as shown in working drawings received and dated 4 February 1987. Working drawings are unchanged from submission reviewed and approved by Commission 15 January 1987.

S.L. 87-58	201 Massachusetts Avenue, N. E. Cinnamons Bakery	Awning/sign

ACTION: No objection to issuance of permit for proposed green vinyl awning with lettering as shown in material received and dated 4 February 1987. Note that this approval applies to awning only; the half-light "Colonial" style entrance is not appropriate and will not be approved.

S.L. 87-42	1615 H Street, N. W. U. S. Chamber of Commerce	Satellite dish

ACTION: No objection to issuance of permit for proposed satellite dish which will be invisible from public space according to supplemental drawings received and dated 11 February 1987.

OLD GEORGETOWN SUBMISSIONS

NO.	ADDRESS AND OWNER	PROJECT
O.G. 87-51	1053 31st Street Mitchell residence	Alteration and repair

ACTION: No objection to issuance of permit for proposed renovation and repair as shown in supplemental working drawings received and dated 3 February 1987.

O.G. 87-53	3110 M Street, N. W. R. B. Associates, Inc.	Storefront alteration

ACTION: No objection to issuance of permit for alteration to shop entrance as shown in drawing received and dated 21 January 1987. Lettering and sign(s) must be submitted under separate application.

O.G. 87-54	1524 30th Street, N. W. C. Boyden Gray	New window and repairs

ACTION: No objection to issuance of permit for the proposed new window and repairs described in material received and dated 21 January 1987. Window details shall match those at existing third floor openings.

O.G. 87-55	1214 35th Street, N. W. District Investments	New window

ACTION: Void. Site of proposed new window has been determined invisible from public space. Refer case to Historic Preservation Office.

O.G. 87-56	3294 M Street, N. W. German Properties	Raze building

ACTION: No objection to issuance of permit for proposed razing of structure on site.

NO.	ADDRESS AND OWNER	PROJECT
O.G. 87-50	1217 Potomac Street, N. W. Lhommedieu residence	Mult-story additions - Conceptual

ACTION: Recommend against concept of additions as proposed. Character and size of proposed additions are inappropriate and unsympathetic with existing historic house and the Georgetown historic district in general.

O.G. 87-57	3406 N Street, N. W. Fox residence	Alterations and repair

ACTION: No objection to issuance of permit for proposed alterations and repair as shown in drawings received and dated 21 January 1987. Any additional changes or additions must be applied for under separate application.

O.G. 87-45	3000 M Street, N. W. Marbury Hotel	Exterior renovation Revised concept

ACTION: No objection to concept of proposed alterations to existing structure as indicated in supplemental drawings received and dated 30 January 1987. Recommend careful study of detailing especially at lintels over proposed new openings in preparation of submission for final review.

THE COMMISSION OF FINE ARTS

ESTABLISHED BY CONGRESS MAY 17, 1910

J. CARTER BROWN, Chairman

CAROLYN J. DEAVER
ROY M. GOODMAN
FREDERICK E. HART
NEIL H. PORTERFIELD
PASCAL REGAN
DIANE WOLF

CHARLES H. ATHERTON, Secretary

708 JACKSON PLACE, N.W.
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20006
202–566–1066

MEETING OF THE COMMISSION OF FINE ARTS

18 February 1987

The meeting was convened at 11:00 a.m. in the Commission of Fine Arts offices at 708 Jackson Place, N.W., Washington, D.C.

Members present:	Hon. J. Carter Brown, Chairman
	Hon. Neil Porterfield, Vice-chairman
	Hon. Carolyn J. Deaver
	Hon. Frederick E. Hart
	Hon. Pascal Regan
	Hon. Diane Wolf
Staff present:	Mr. Charles H. Atherton, Secretary
	Mr. Donald B. Myer, Assistant Secretary
	Mr. Jeffrey R. Carson
	Mrs. Sue A. Kohler
National Capital Planning Commission staff present:	Mr. Lee Feldman

I. ADMINISTRATION

A. Commission Meeting with the Administrator of the General Services Administration, Terence Golden. The Chairman asked the Secretary to report on the Commission's meeting with the Administrator earlier in the morning at the GSA Building. The Administrator had invited the Commission and other guests to announce a new program making posters available of WPA and newly commissioned works of art. The Secretary pointed out that the Commission had been involved with GSA in public arts programs for many years and that it was a pleasure to see the new program.

B. 16 January 1987 Commission of Fine Arts minutes. The minutes were unanimously approved.

C. Dates of next meetings were set at 12 March and 16 April 1987, both Thursdays.

D. Requirements for works of art in public and private buildings: Discussion and proposed resolution, Frederick E. Hart. The Chairman told the members that Mr. Hart had drafted a resolution putting the Commission

on record favoring a one percent for arts requirement for private sector construction projects in the Capital. Mr. Hart had previously discussed this matter with the Commission and had prepared a draft resolution, adoption of which was moved by Mr. Porterfield and seconded by Miss Wolf. The resolution was approved for circulation to appropriate agencies and read into the record by the Chairman. Exhibit A

E. Letter from John F.W. Rogers, Assistant Secretary of the Treasury concerning coin design. The Secretary reported on a letter received from Mr. Rogers which contained two items: 1) A notification that the concept of organizing an advisory panel on coin design had been abandoned; and 2) a statement that the Treasury will rely solely on the Commission of Fine Arts for advice on coin design. Exhibit B

II. SUBMISSION AND REVIEWS

A. Government of the District of Columbia, Board of Zoning Appeals, (case no. 14565, re: Subsection of Zoning Reg. 4603.6).

1. CFA 18/Feb/87-1, Peoples Republic of China, 2300-2310 Connecticut Avenue, N.W., Addition of pool and auditorium to existing complex.

The Assistant Secretary indicated that this was the first case referred to the Commission by the D.C. Board of Zoning Appeals under the recently enacted Foreign Missions bill, and that the proposal would also be submitted for Commission advice under provisions of the Shipstead-Luce Act. He recommended that the Commission look at the proposal from its own expertise and review it singly for both requirements.

Though historic preservation considerations were specifically addressed by the BZA process, this site was not associated with historic structures or in a historic district. The project could be viewed from the Taft Bridge and the edge of Rock Creek Park. The design had been reviewed by the community through the ANC process and some changes to the original design had been made to pick up more of the detailing of the adjacent, former St. Alban's Apartment Building which had become a part of the Embassy. The proposal was for a two-story box-like structure within a rear ell of the complex, away from Connecticut Avenue and facing the park across an unimproved section of Belmont Road. The lower floor would contain an indoor swimming pool and the upper floor would contain an auditorium.

Mr. Marvin Cantor, the architect, was accompanied by Messrs. Richard Massey and Ronald Mloteck of the Department of State. Note was made that the design had been sent to the Commission members ahead of the meeting and they had visited the site earlier in the day. Mr. Cantor presented his designs showing the original scheme and another revised to incorporate community comments. He said that the materials of the exterior walls would be brick to match the adjacent apartment building and that he had attempted to express the vertical column lines on the skin of the addition. He noted a grillwork on the lower floor which was a specific security requirement of the Embassy and commented that the new

windows added to the second story auditorium were not ideal from a light control point of view.

Both the Chairman and Mrs. Regan felt the original design was acceptable, as a background building blending into the existing adjacent structures as a part of the park edge. The Chairman objected to the form of the double-hung "Georgian" windows now inserted into a functional auditorium wall. Mr. Porterfield suggested that the unfinished condition of Belmont Road could lend the opportunity for additional screen planting and an enhancement of the park edge. Mr. Hart questioned the compatibility of the addition to the apartment building, feeling that the architect should go farther to blend with the existing surroundings. There was additional discussion with the Chairman concluding that he did not sense approval of the project, though there was no objection to the general siting and massing of the building. Mr. Massey, from the Department of State, added his concern that the Commission be quite clear in commenting to the BZA because there was to be a hearing the following week. The Chairman reiterated that the Commission had no objection to the BZA concerns, but would like to see additional study on the "public face" of the addition prior to approval under the Shipstead-Luce Act.

Exhibit C

B. Government of the District of Columbia, Department of Public Works.

1. CFA 18/Feb/87-2, Shepherd Park Library, 7400 Georgia Avenue, N.W. Concept design for new facility.

Mr. Carson pointed out that the site was in a residential area in the far north of the city at Georgia Avenue, near Geranium St. The one-story brick 20,000 square foot building would be landscaped and have a small parking lot in front and a service yard to the rear. He noted that Ms. Angela Brown of the Department of Public Works was present and introduced the architect, Mr. Daniel Kim of Bryant Associates.

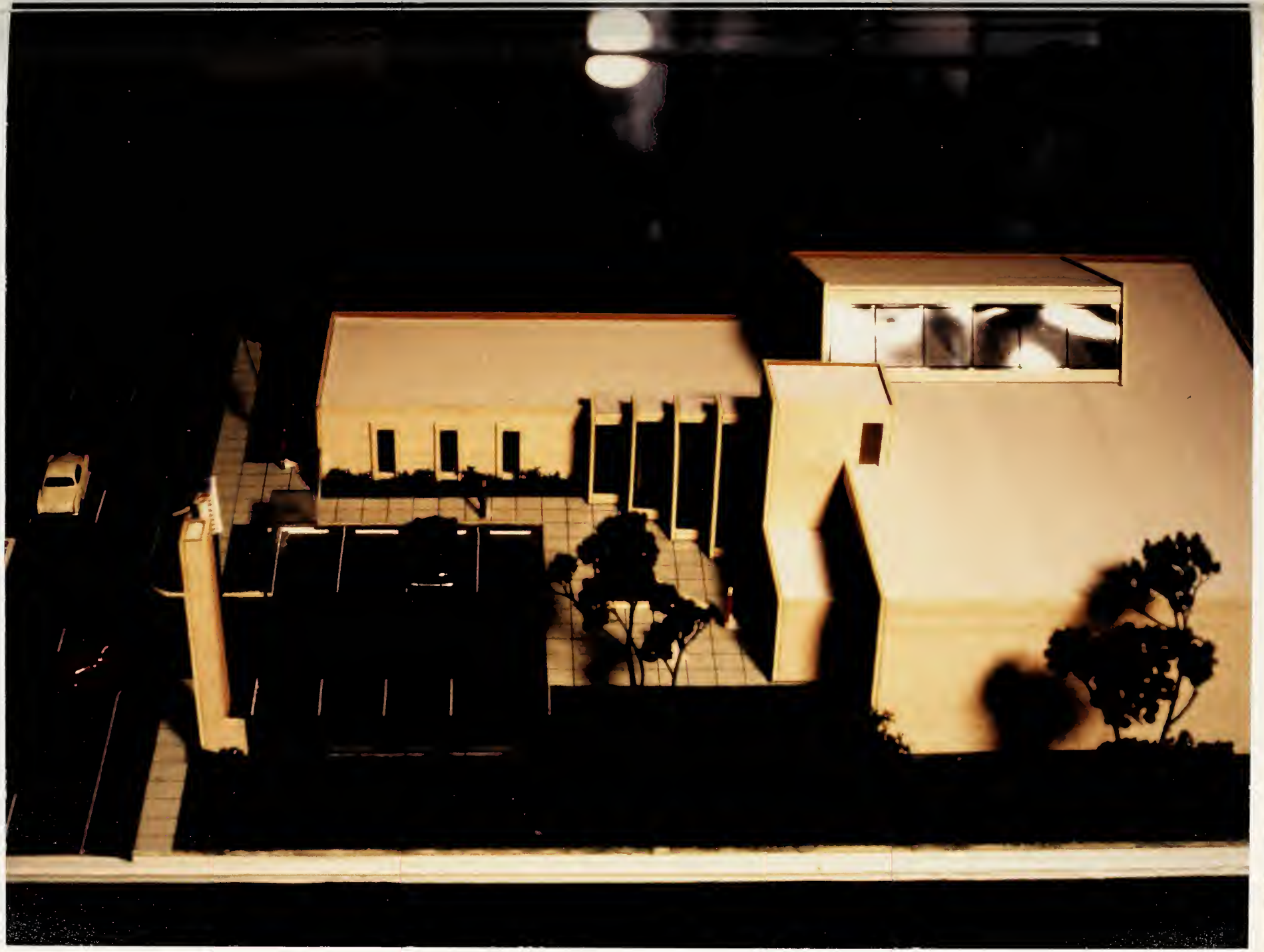
Mr. Kim described the project and showed the Commission a model and brick samples as well as photographs of the site. Mr. Hart said that the library was a perfect opportunity to include public art, though there was not a specific response. After general discussion and examination of the submission materials, the project was approved without objection.

Exhibit D

C. United States Postal Service, Facilities Department.

1. CFA 18/Feb/87-3, Washington City Post Office, Massachusetts Avenue and North Capitol Street, N.E. Concept design for additions and alterations for adaptive reuse.

The Assistant Secretary described the proposed rehabilitation and reuse of the 1911 neo-classical building next to Union Station, designed by architect Daniel Burnham. He indicated that the project would be linked to current efforts to reuse Union Station for mixed retail/ restaurant and station facilities. The Post Office building would contain a branch post office, a postal museum, and office space divided between



18 Feb. 87-2 Shepherd Park Library
Georgia Avenue

commercial and federal use. The Commission had visited the site earlier in the day and was familiar with the relationship of the building to the monumental core, the Capital, and Massachusetts Avenue.

The architect, Mr. Shalom Baranes, showed the Commission drawings, slides and a model of the project in context with its unique setting showing how the sightlines of a proposed increase of several floors above the former industrial part of the building would be substantially set back from Massachusetts Avenue serving as a screen to the parking garage behind the station and a foil for expected new commercial construction north of the site. The Commission discussed sightlines and the visibility of the project in relation to an expected building flanking the other side of Union Station, which was currently in planning stages by the Architect of the Capitol. It was pointed out that the site appeared to be somewhat symmetrical, but was not, owing to a skewed street pattern. It was also pointed out that an earlier scheme for lining the entire Union Station plaza (Columbus Circle) with monumental arcades had been abandoned in favor of keeping the area open toward the Capitol.

Mr. Baranes described the proposal to restore the grand spaces of the building, noting that the Postal Service was relocating its original industrial facilities to a remote site. Thus the effort was adaptively to reuse the building, with its grand architecture intact, while allowing the new development to pay for restoration and stabilization. Mr. Baranes gave a very thorough slide presentation on the condition of the building and the prime features planned for restoration. He also showed extensive sightline studies from different directions.

Miss Wolf expressed an interest in coordination between the proposed project and the building being planned to the east of Union Station by the Architect of the Capitol. Mr. Hart asked about any reaction from the Architect of the Capitol concerning the present project. Mr. Baranes stated that they had met several times with the Architect of the Capitol, who had no basic objections to the project. Miss Wolf also asked if there had been coordination with neighborhood historic groups. Mr. Baranes indicated that there had been some coordination and more was expected. Mr. Porterfield indicated that he saw two major issues: 1) Should changes be allowed to such a magnificent building; or 2) should the sightlines in this important historical area be altered? He concluded that in his view both issues had been beautifully accommodated. The Chairman said that he found the changes an improvement on the North Capitol Street side, where there was an existing, large and ungainly addition to the original Burnham design. Miss Wolf again expressed concern about input from historical groups. The Chairman felt that the Commission was appointed to include competence in the field of historic preservation and said he did not favor deferring Commission expertise to other groups for their opinion. There was additional discussion pointing out that one of the key design issues was that there will be buildings flanking Union Station and that the great barrel vault of the station must be allowed to dominate. At this point Mr. Hart moved approval of the design, seconded by Mrs. Regan. The design was approved with Miss Wolf opposed. Exhibit E

18 Feb. 87-3 Wash. City Post Off.
Renovation and add.

D. Department of the Army, Corps of Engineers.

1. CFA 18/Feb/87-4, National Historic Center and Museum for the Corps of Engineers, Humphries Engineer Center, Ft. Belvoir, Va. Designs for new museum building.

Mr. Carson told the Commission that the Engineering Center is south of the city outside the usual Commission jurisdiction and that the submission was based on a joint decision between the National Capital Planning Commission and the Corps of Engineers. He indicated that the project would be built in two phases, the first being the central element, then the wings. The 40,000 square foot two-story structure was proposed to be a glassy, symmetrical, contemporary building in a formal landscaped setting within a wooded area.

Mr. Geyer, of the Baltimore Corps of Engineers, was present, and asked the architect, Mr. Dave Wagner of Clark, Tribble, Harris & Li to make the presentation. Mr. Wagner traced the development of the design and discussed the use of the museum. Mr. Michael Vise, the museum curator, indicated that some exhibits would be out-of-doors and that graphic and interpretive exhibits would be in the building.

The Commission had a favorable discussion, but the Chairman suggested that the rear of the building could use additional articulation, such as notching at the stair towers. The project was approved without objection to that suggestion. Exhibit F

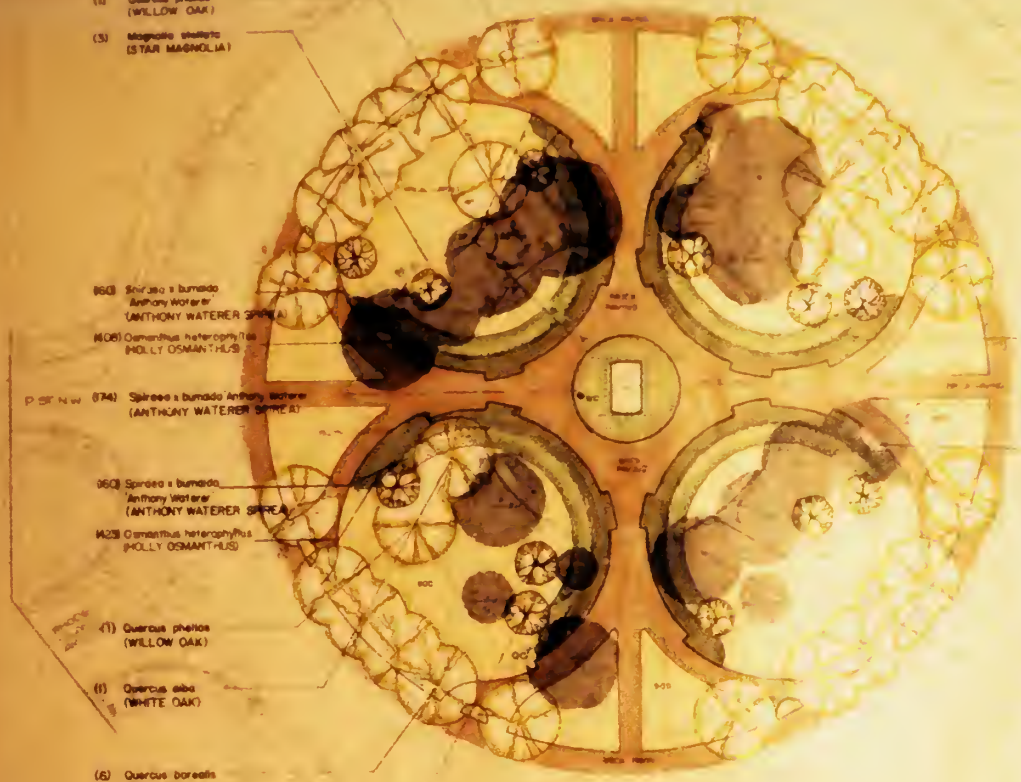
LUNCHEON RECESS: The Chairman temporarily adjourned the meeting from 1:05 p.m. to 1:30 p.m.

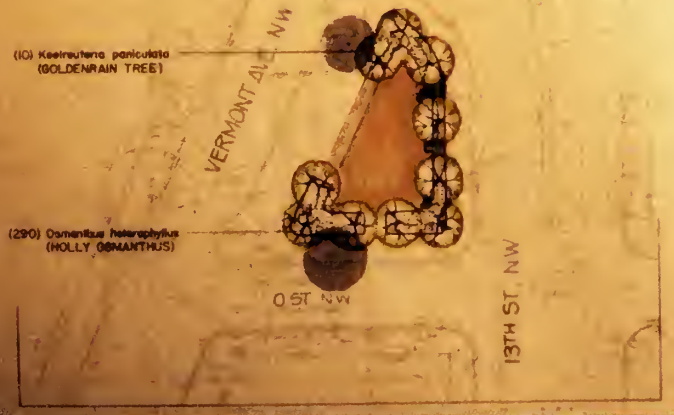
E. National Park Service, National Capital Region.

1. CFA 18/Feb/87-5, Logan Circle, Vermont and Rhode Island Avenues, at 13th Street, N.W. Final Renovation plan.

Mr. Carson told the members that this project had been last reviewed by the Commission in October 1985 at which time the restoration concept had been approved, with some questions about over-Victorianizing the street furniture. That was the type of detail being presented at this time.

Mr. David Sherman of the National Park Service told of efforts to restore the shape to a circle from an oval and to put back suitable landscape features to enhance this primarily residential community. He then introduced Miss Sterks from the Earth Design Associates. Miss Sterks reviewed the history of the current design effort. She pointed out that there was an effort to reproduce some of the elements that had been in the park and that a reproduction-type light fixture was being proposed which would have a steady, bright light (similar to those with gas mantles, vs. exposed flames). The lamps would have a fibre-optics system projecting onto a reflective surface to create this effect. She also indicated that the project might not be started until 1991.





PLANT LIST:

Item No.	Botanical Name	Common Name	Quan.	Size	Spacing & Method	Remarks

SCALE OF FEET

NO.	BY	DATE	REVISIONS

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE - NATIONAL CAPITAL PARKS
OFFICE OF DESIGN AND CONSTRUCTION

PLANTING PLAN

LOGAN CIRCLE RESTORATION
LOGAN CIRCLE, WASHINGTON, D.C.

18 Feb. 87-5 Logan Circle
Renovation and
landscaping

There was some discussion of funding and timing. Ms. Darwina Neal, of the Park Service, indicated that there was a waiting list of projects and that 1991 really looked like the earliest that the project would move forward. Miss Wolf expressed concern about the quality of light and how a flickering-type of gas fixture had been used in Aspen, Colorado, with little success and high cost. There was an interest in looking further into the exact type of lamp and its light quality. With that caveat, the plans were unanimously approved. Exhibit G

2. CFA 18/Feb/87-7, The White House. Material selection for repaving perimeter sidewalks.

Mr. Carson presented three alternate landscape treatments for the White House enclave including the area between 15th and 17th Streets and Pennsylvania Avenue and the Ellipse. He pointed out that the designs were a continuation of the efforts almost completed at Treasury Place, between the White House and the Treasury Building, and coupled with the program for putting security bollards along the Pennsylvania Avenue frontage of the White House. The alternates varied as to tree spacing and paving patterns. All were designed to eliminate present eyesore conditions and to be compatible with the Treasury Place project.

Mr. Jim McDaniels, the White House Liaison from the National Park Service, was introduced and he gave a brief overview of the efforts at enhancing the White House entry areas and generally upgrading the visual environment. A landscape architect from the Park Service, Ms. Carol Whipple, then showed slides of the area and some of the proposed materials as already installed at Treasury Place. She went through the alternative design proposals pointing out the paving patterns and several techniques of placing trees along the walkways. Miss Wolf brought up the subject of size and species of tree. Ms. Whipple indicated that trees five-and-one-half to six-inches in diameter would be used and that American elms, red oaks and willow oaks were being considered. The Commission stated a preference for willow oaks.

The Commission looked at the alternate planting schemes and favored a single row of trees which would leave the entrance areas to the buildings open to enhance their architecture. The White House/16th Street axis would be free also. The block type of paving used at Treasury Place seemed best to the members who felt that seeing how that area turns out and wears should come prior to a final decision on the remainder of the complex. Mr. Porterfield mentioned that the composition material used here might be too reflective in the Washington sun. This was a discussion item, to give the Park Service a feel for proceeding with more formal designs. Of the points discussed the Commission was unanimous in commending the concept. Exhibit H

F. Pennsylvania Avenue Development Corporation.

1. CFA 18/Feb/87-6, Presidential Building, 11th, 12th Streets, and Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W. Resubmission of concept design for proposed addition.

The Assistant Secretary reminded the members that they had looked at this design revision at their 15 January 1987 meeting and been unsure about the propriety of the proposed design in conjunction with a recent redesign of the adjacent Evening Star project. He indicated that the members had visited the site earlier in the day and that the architect, Mr. Frank Schlesinger, had prepared additional drawings and a model to further explain the proposal.

Mr. Schlesinger was present as was the PADC representative, Mr. James Rich. The architect said that he hoped the additional presentation materials would clarify the design as being appropriate to the site. He stated that the materials would be the same as those on the Star project. The narrow (40 feet) in-fill building was proposed in a contemporary style as a contrast to the plain, 1920's Harrington Hotel to the north and the post-Beaux Arts facade proposed for the south. The Commission had a general discussion of the various architectural elements and materials. The Chairman indicated a strong liking for the design. Mr. Porterfield said he thought it was an appropriate architectural expression for the site. Mrs. Regan noted the difficulty of designing for the site. Mrs. Deaver and Mr. Hart voted in favor of the project along with all present except Miss Wolf, who was opposed. Exhibit I

G. District of Columbia Department of Consumer and Regulatory Affairs.

1. Shipstead-Luce Act

a. S.L. 87-60, 1700 Kalmia Road, N.W. Concept design for new 2-story detached single family house.

Mr. Carson presented the designs for a new 2-story house near Rock Creek Park. The proposed structure would have cedar siding and a cedar roof and would go into an area with a variety of eclectic houses. He then introduced the architect, Mr. George Lee.

Mr. Lee described the house and indicated that many of the trees were to be retained in an effort at keeping the wooded character of the building lot. Mr. Hart asked if there was any objection to the proposal and it was indicated that there was none and that the ANC had been contacted. After some further discussion, the project was given unanimous approval. Exhibit J

b. Appendix I. Miss Wolf moved approval, Mr. Porterfield seconded, and the action was unanimous.

2. Old Georgetown Act.

a. Appendix II. Miss Wolf asked about a razing application for 3294 M Street, N.W. Mr. Carson said it was a defunct garden shop converted from an old gas station, a prefab greenhouse and some lattice and that it did not seem an appropriate item to put on the Commission's agenda. (The Board had recommended in favor of the demolition.) Mrs. Boyd joined the discussion saying that she had just come from a meeting of the Historic Preservation Review Board where the same item had been approved and that it would be very nice to have all demolitions come before "us" to be sure there is no objection. Miss Wolf asked to review a proposal to renovate the face of a recent hotel building at 30th and M Streets, which Mr. Myer explained was to create a new M Street entrance to the hotel, while Mr. Carson showed the drawings. The Board had recommended approval and the members looked at the proposal and agreed it would be an improvement. Mr. Hart moved approval of the Appendix and Mr. Porterfield seconded the motion, which carried.

Catholic War Veterans Building, Massachusetts Avenue at North Capitol Street. Mr. Hart mentioned this matter which was not on the agenda, though letters had been sent to the members. The Secretary said that the matter of the renovation was very disturbing to the gentleman who wrote the letter, because he had proposed a use for the structure himself. His problem was the type of fast food use for which the building was being renovated. The Secretary told of contacting the permit branch of the District Government and noting that any exterior changes should be referred to the Commission under the Shipstead-Luce Act. This had been followed up with a letter from the Commission staff. The Permit Branch had replied that the project might not involve any substantial review, because no exterior changes were being planned. The Commission went on record being concerned about the character of the building, and asked the staff to continue to monitor the situation.

ADJOURNED. The meeting was adjourned at 2:55 p.m.

DRAFT

EXHIBIT A

RESOLUTION FAVORING ART IN PUBLIC AND PRIVATE CONSTRUCTION

The principal role of the Commission of Fine Arts is to serve as an advocate of the highest standards of achievement in public art and architecture. In keeping with that responsibility, the Commission seeks avenues of approach which have proven successful in other municipalities, and advises their implementation for the National Capital when deemed suitable and enhancive.

Many American cities have taken the leadership in adopting a one percent for art program which has proven to be a tremendous success in raising and enriching the artistic standards of the public environment and in substantially increasing the quality of life in general. Especially notable among these are Seattle and San Francisco.

It is the unanimous conviction of this Commission that it is fitting and appropriate that a similar program for the creation of public art by the nation's leading artists should be adopted for the Nation's Capital.

We do therefore recommend that the federal government and the government of the District of Columbia adopt a program allocating one percent of their construction budgets for public works of art. Further, we feel that to build and develop in the National Capital is a privilege which entails a civic responsibility to the people of the city and the nation. Therefore, we strongly encourage the mayor and the government of the District of Columbia to implement a plan requiring a one percent allocation for public art in private development projects.

DEPARTMENT OF THE TREASURY
WASHINGTON

EXHIBIT B

ASSISTANT SECRETARY

RECEIVED
COMMISSION OF FINE ARTS
FEB 17 1987

February 13, 1987

Dear Carter:

This letter is to confirm our telephone conversation in which I informed you that the Department has decided not to proceed with plans to form an advisory committee on coin and currency design. Instead, the Department will rely to a greater extent on the advice and counsel of the Commission of Fine Arts to guarantee the quality of future designs.

The Secretary's decision to accept the Commission's recommendation of a limited design competition for the Constitution bicentennial coins is the first step in that direction. He asked me to work with you to make sure we have a better dialogue.

I have enclosed for your information the press releases covering the above mentioned subjects. I look forward to discussing this with you in person. Until then I remain,

Sincerely yours,

John F. W. Rogers
Assistant Secretary of the Treasury

Mr. J. Carter Brown
Chairman
The Commission of Fine Arts
708 Jackson Place, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20006

Enclosures

NEWS United States Mint • Washington, D.C., 20220

EXHIBIT B
Enclosure

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
February 6, 1987

FOR FURTHER PRESS INFORMATION
CALL: EUGENE H. ESSNER
(202) 376-0434

BICENTENNIAL OF THE CONSTITUTION'S COIN DESIGN

Washington, D.C. (February 6, 1987) -- Following the recommendations of the Commission of Fine Arts, the Treasurer of the United States, Katherine D. Ortega, announced today that the designs for coins commemorating the bicentennial of the United States Constitution will be chosen following a limited competition among selected American artists. The Mint will announce next week the artists invited to participate in the competition.

The Bicentennial of the Constitution Coins Act directs the United States Mint to issue two coins to commemorate the bicentennial of the Constitution. The Mint will produce not more than one million gold coins, with a face value of five dollars, and ten million silver dollars, each emblematic of the bicentennial of the Constitution. The final designs will be selected by the Secretary of the Treasury after consultation with both the Commission on the Bicentennial of the United States Constitution and the Commission of Fine Arts.

The Treasurer also announced that the Treasury Department has decided not to proceed with plans to form an advisory committee on coin and currency design. Instead, the Department will rely to a greater extent on the advice and counsel of the Commission of Fine Arts to guarantee the quality of future designs.

-- 30 --

THE COMMISSION OF FINE ARTS

ESTABLISHED BY CONGRESS MAY 17, 1910

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CHARLES H. ATHERTON, Secretary

EXHIBIT C

708 JACKSON PLACE, N.W.
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20006
202-566-1066

13 March 1987

Dear Mr. Curry:

The Commission of Fine Arts met in public session on 18 February 1987 to discuss the Board of Zoning Appeals, case #14565, concerning an addition to the Embassy of the Peoples Republic of China at Connecticut Avenue and Belmont Street, N. W. After visiting the site and examining the proposals with representatives from the Department of State and the architect, Marvin Cantor, the Commission found no objection to the concept of the project from the zoning and historic preservation point of view. We understand the design will be brought to us later for review under the Shipstead-Luce Act.

The location and massing of the proposed structure seem appropriate, and the proposed use of a brick to match that on the existing St. Alban's Apartment Building does too. We have some concern over the appearance, however, particularly the fenestration, with its combination of residential-scale double-hung sash on the upper floor and the commercial/institutional scale of the large grill-covered glass areas on the lower floor. We suggest additional study and hope that the currently undeveloped section of Belmont Street flanking the project and the park can be used for additional landscaping adjacent to the addition. We feel that this effort will enhance the Embassy complex and its special setting on the edge of Rock Creek Park.

Sincerely,

J. Carter Brown
Chairman

Mr. Edward L. Curry
Acting Executive Director
Government of the District of Columbia
Board of Zoning Adjustment
1350 Pennsylvania Avenue, N. W., Room 11
Washington, D. C. 20004

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ROY M. GOODMAN
FREDERICK E. HART
NEIL H. PORTERFIELD
PASCAL REGAN
DIANE WOLF

CHARLES H. ATHERTON, Secretary

EXHIBIT D

708 JACKSON PLACE, N.W.
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20006
202-566-1066

13 March 1987

Dear Mr. Pavlick:

On 18 February 1987 the Commission reviewed concept plans for the new Shepherd Park Library with Angela Brown from the Department of Public Works and a representative from the architectural firm of Andrew Bryant and Associates. The proposal is approved with the understanding that no additional parking will be required and that budgetary and construction documents include a provision that some work of art be incorporated in the fabric of the building or on its site. This latter provision is made in the context of recently enacted legislation by the D. C. Council requiring that one percent of construction funds be set aside for public works of art.

The Commission staff is available should there be any questions.

Sincerely,

J. Carter Brown
Chairman

Mr. Charles R. Pavlick
Government of the District of Columbia
Department of Public Works
Design, Engineering and Construction
Administration
2000 14th Street, N. W., 5th floor
Washington, D. C. 20009

THE COMMISSION OF FINE ARTS

ESTABLISHED BY CONGRESS MAY 17, 1910

J. CARTER BROWN, Chairman

CAROLYN J. DEAVER
ROY M. GOODMAN
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DIANE WOLF

CHARLES H. ATHERTON, Secretary

EXHIBIT E

708 JACKSON PLACE, N.W.
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20006
202-566-1066

13 March 1987

Dear Mr. Wamsley:

The Commission of Fine Arts was pleased to review plans for the renovation of the City Post Office at Massachusetts Avenue and North Capitol Street, N. E. during its meeting on 18 February 1987. The architect, Shalom Baranes, gave us a presentation of the proposal which combines a mixture of public and private office space and a major new component of the Smithsonian which will function as a postal museum. Another important and highly commendable part of the plan will be the restoration of the monumental old postal service room and entrance halls, some of which have been boarded over since the early 1950's.

The principal feature that occupied the bulk of the Commission's attention was the increase in building height which would occur on the north half of the existing post office where a new four-story penthouse would be constructed.

Fortunately the penthouse is set back to the north half of the building some two hundred feet from the Massachusetts Avenue facade line. At this location the main vaulted waiting room, a principal design feature of the station, is still clearly visible from Massachusetts Avenue, while the massive new garage to the north of the station is largely screened. Both of these findings are clearly borne out by a close inspection of the models and sight-line studies. At the same time it should be noted that there are presently or will be soon buildings in the surrounding blocks to the north with heights similar to the new addition, so it should fit in well with the immediate neighborhood.

Just to the east of the station in roughly the same relation as the post office, another building is in the planning stages that will be somewhat smaller and lower. While this would seem to throw the view of the three buildings out of balance, the disparity in size is offset by the angle of Massachusetts Avenue which results in the post office site being farther away when seen from the Capitol. Thus the two will appear to be in balance around the station.

On the basis of these conclusions, the Commission gave its approval to the conceptual scheme and looks forward to reviewing further the design developments at the appropriate time.

Sincerely,

J. Carter Brown
Chairman

Mr. Dennis E. Wamsley
General Manager
Utilization & Disposal Division
Office of Real Estate
United States Postal Service
475 L'Enfant Plaza, S. W.
Washington, D. C. 20260-6400

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EXHIBIT F

708 JACKSON PLACE, N.W.
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20006
202-566-1066

13 March 1987

Dear Mr. McCormick:

The Commission of Fine Arts was pleased to review plans for the Humphries Engineer Center museum at Fort Belvoir, Virginia at its meeting on 18 February 1987. As you pointed out in your letter of submission, the site is out of our normal jurisdiction, but we are always glad to look at any projects you may wish to submit, especially when the building in question will be very much in the public eye, as is the case here.

Happily, I can report that the Commission members were enthusiastic about the design. The plans have a strong sense of order, the materials are simple but elegant in their handling, and the landscaping will set this structure off from the many varied building types nearby - all of which will go toward making this a distinctive public building.

The Commission noted that the museum is to be constructed in two phases. While this is a reasonable approach, it does present the possibility of the rear of the first phase existing in some unfinished condition for an indefinite period. Some thought might be given to screening the rear of the building with a row of pine trees or other such landscape material in the interim. The rear of the building in both its temporary state and its permanent condition is an important facade in the sense that it is seen by visitors who drive around the building and park in the rear. Accordingly, the rear elevation ought to be given the same sense of refinement as will occur on its principal facade.

Sincerely,

J. Carter Brown
Chairman

Mr. William N. McCormick, Jr.
Chief, Engineering Division
Directorate of Engineering and
Construction
Department of the Army
Office of the Chief of Engineers
Washington, D. C. 20314-10000

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CHARLES H. ATHERTON, Secretary

EXHIBIT G

708 JACKSON PLACE, N.W.
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20006
202-566-1066

13 March 1987

Dear Jack:

On 18 February 1987 the Commission reviewed final details for the renovation of Logan Circle with David Sherman of your office and a representative of Earth Design Associates. The members are generally pleased by the development of the scheme, although a cautionary note must still be expressed concerning the proposed source of illumination for the light posts. There is nothing wrong with the design per se, but one of our members is familiar with a similar installation in Aspen, Colorado, and apparently the quality of light has not been satisfactory and there have been maintenance problems. Perhaps someone from the Denver Service Center could look into the matter and report back to your local design office.

It was noted during the discussion that the project is scheduled for inclusion in the appropriations process no earlier than 1991. The members of the Commission expressed the hope that some way be found to expedite this very worthwhile community project.

Sincerely,

J. Carter Brown
Chairman

Mr. Manus J. Fish, Jr.
Director, National Park Service
Department of the Interior
1100 Ohio Drive, S. W.
Washington, D. C. 20242

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CHARLES H. ATHERTON, Secretary

EXHIBIT H

708 JACKSON PLACE, N.W.
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20006
202-566-1066

13 March 1987

Dear Jack:

The Commission considered several schemes for new paving and tree planting on Pennsylvania Avenue between 15th and 17th Street at its meeting on 18 February 1987. Jim McDaniel, liason to the White House and Carol Whipple, the project director, provided an informative briefing on the matter.

Now that East Executive Avenue is nearly finished, it makes sense to extend that same quality of materials to Pennsylvania Avenue and eventually around the entire system of streets that enclose the Ellipse and the White House grounds. In line with this thinking, I believe we should take our cue from the newly installed materials on East Executive Avenue and see where, if possible, we could improve upon them.

Following our meeting, I had occasion to see this project at close range, and it struck me that carrying the identical paving materials and design all around the White House might pose a problem. I think the Park Service should give some additional thought to rectangular pavers with the joints staggered at midpoint vs. square pavers. Even small deviations in alignment or leveling of the paver are much more noticeable with the square stones all lined up like grid paper. With staggered joints, as in the traditional solution offered by "London block", the surface tends to be the dominant element, and may make a more satisfactory sidewalk.

In addition to the paving pattern, it would be appropriate to reexamine material samples, and also the tree planting scheme. The material used in the new walks to the east of the White House seems preferable to other options referred to in the presentation, but may be a bit too light and therefore glary in the Washington sun. More of the dark aggregate could help this and give a great sense of texture at a distance. While we were unanimous in preferring an open space in front of the three major buildings on the avenue, there was some question regarding the location of the tree boxes and whether or not they should

be closer to the curb or to the center of the sidewalk. They should not obstruct pedestrian flow down the middle of the sidewalk; at the same time, one needs to study how close to the street they can be without jeopardizing their health from salt on the streets.

The Commission will be meeting again on 16 April, and I believe we ought to get a first hand look at the site.

Please let us know if your schedule will permit you or someone on your staff to join us. A time during the middle of the day would be best for us, and I hope we can work something out.

Sincerely,

J. Carter Brown
Chairman

Mr. Manus J. Fish, Jr.
Director, National Park Service
Department of the Interior
1100 Ohio Drive, S. W.
Washington, D. C. 20242

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CHARLES H. ATHERTON, Secretary

EXHIBIT I

708 JACKSON PLACE, N.W.
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20006
202-566-1066

13 March 1987

Dear Mr. Berliner:

The revised design for an addition to the Presidential Building was approved by the Commission of Fine Arts at its meeting on 18 February 1987.

The new addition, which fronts on 11th Street in the narrow slot between The Star Annex and the Harrington Hotel, should fit in very nicely with its next-door neighbors. Its materials and scale are most appropriate, and the recessed vertical niche gives to what otherwise could be a very modest building a surprising touch of refinement. PADC was fortunate to have an architect such as Mr. Schlesinger who cared enough about the project to risk losing a previously obtained approval because he thought he could improve upon the design.

The new design is in fact much better, and we appreciate his efforts.

Sincerely,

J. Carter Brown
Chairman

Mr. Henry A. Berliner
Chairman
Pennsylvania Avenue Development
Corporation
1331 Pennsylvania Avenue, N. W.
Washington, D. C. 20004-1703

EXHIBIT J

AGENDA ITEM EXHIBITS
CFA Meeting 18 February 1986
Shipstead-Luce Actions

NO.	ADDRESS AND OWNER	PROJECT
S.L. 87-60	1700 Kalmia Road, N. W. Moore residence	Concept design for new single family residence

ACTION: No objection to design concept for new two-story, single family, detached residence as shown in drawings received and dated 6 February 1987. Submit final working drawings for review prior to issuance of permit.

MEETING:

16 April 1987